

162 THE  
O D D I T Y:

A

P O E M

Of near 250 Lines

In One Continued Rhyme.

BEING

A LETTER from a SAILOR to his  
SWEETHEART.

*Who boldly insists on Retaliation  
For open Insults, and unjust Depredation;  
And imagines with Others that Depopulation,  
Without longer Delay or Procrastination,  
Is the Way to compel them to make Compensation.*

See Line 111, and following.

L O N D O N:

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© B D I T Y

1110

in One Continued Rhyme.

to his

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices of the County of ... for the year 1900.



1740





*Madam,*



THE great reputation  
You have in this nation,  
And another qualification,  
Which raises my admiration,

Gives me invitation  
To become your relation,  
By the closest combination,  
I mean copulation  
Without fornication,  
And after proclamation,  
According to the best regulation,  
Then without hesitation,  
Yet with due deliberation,  
I'll make preparation,  
By my sole administration,  
In a curious operation,  
To give you a sensation  
Of the finest recreation;  
Which is a pleasant gratification,  
When used with moderation:  
Thus we'll cause a circulation  
Of what is the foundation

Whereof the stagnation  
 Wou'd prevent that augmentation,  
 And so hinder the multiplication  
 Of our own propagation;  
 Without which the creation  
 Wou'd come to annihilation.  
 Now if this my intimation,  
 Or rather supplication,  
 Does meet with acceptation,  
 By your kind approbation  
 'Twill impose an obligation  
 Beyond the power of relation,  
 And cause a renovation  
 Over my whole corporation,  
 With as great an alteration  
 As King *Charles's* restauration.  
 But to continue my narration,  
 Please to take into consideration  
 The genteelness of my occupation,  
 My pleasant habitation,  
 With its delightful situation,  
 Of which upon examination,  
 The bearer of this translation  
 Will give you a full demonstration,  
 And answer every interrogation  
 Without any reservation,  
 Or the least deviation,  
 Or colour of prevarication,  
 For he's void of dissimulation,



Of a genteel education,  
 A man of penetration;  
 He's of a good inclination,  
 In my arbitration,  
 And of great contemplation,  
 Much given to meditation,  
 Which inclin'd me to use him in this nice negotiation.  
 He understands navigation,  
 As also fortification,  
 Which is of no great signification  
 Since he never goes out of his own plantation,  
 Being little inclin'd to perigrination;  
 He denies transubstantiation,  
 With whatever smells of supererrogation:  
 He's a man of such great application,  
 That he grudges the little cessation  
 When he takes sustentation  
 For his health's preservation;  
 Which to me is a great provocation,  
 And raises my indignation  
 To think that one of his observation  
 Has not a better way of cogitation,  
 Than to neglect the participation  
 Of his daily alimentation,  
 To which his Studies should be in subordination:  
 He's a devil at verification,  
 And goes on without variation  
 All in one termination,  
 Of which this is an indication,

Or I believe I should have said illustration;  
 It was done at my instigation,  
 But not without some expostulation:  
 He understands the history of the reformation  
 As if he had had it by inspiration:  
 He has read a book on justification,  
 Which he says has a good dedication;  
 And another on divination,  
 With one or two on predestination,  
 Which seem as dark as some parts of St. *John's*  
 revelation,  
 And tend but very little to edification:  
 He has read a very good one, he says, on reparation,  
 Without which in case of wrong it allows no salvation,  
 But always with this (*if in your power*) limitation,  
 Mean time if you're willing you're free from dam-  
 nation,  
 One of which may be done be what will a man's  
 station:  
 He can tell you the story of king *James's* abdication,  
 And also what occasion'd the act of toleration,  
 With most of the remarkables under the *Jewish* dis-  
 pensation,  
 Particularly that of the Sun's retrogradation  
 At the time when *Hezekiah* fear'd his expiration,  
 Of which I could readily give you a quotation,  
 But a story so noted needs no further citation:  
 He's without any affectation,  
 And will answer my representation;



That he is good at an oration  
 Is beyond confutation;  
 He has the general acclamation  
 For proper pronunciation;  
 He likewise observes tense, mood, and conjugation,  
 He has committed some follies thro' example or  
 imitation,  
 Of which he has since made a full recantation;  
 He tells me he never had the least emulation  
 To study the distance of any constellation,  
 But minds what is lower whence he had his deri-  
 vation;  
 He likewise insists on retaliation,  
 For open insults and unjust depredation,  
 And imagines, with others, that depopulation,  
 Without longer delay or procrastination,  
 Is the way to compel them to make compensation,  
 At least for what they took before the war's decla-  
 ration,  
 And admires what hinders its being put in agitation:  
 This, he tells me, occasions incredible speculation,  
 For as he frequents ev'ry public association,  
 He readily hears all their communication.  
 Sometimes he calls at the sign of the salutation,  
 Where the wine's neat and fine without any adulte-  
 ration:  
 His colour at coming out is a pretty carnation,  
 Tho' I'll swear I ne'er knew him drink to intoxication,  
 Of which you might think the above an insinuation.

But really he is not of that denomination;  
 For he never exceeds a moderate elevation,  
 Which, he says, when he's griev'd, still affords con-  
 solation,  
 And when he is non-plus'd, is like illumination.  
 Now observe of excess this is no vindication,  
 Of which I have heard him speak with detestation,  
 Saying, he'd vote for its utter extirpation,  
 Because it puts men into an infatuation,  
 Or, as I as well might have said, fascination,  
 During which they do sometimes meet with dislocat-  
 tion,  
 Which, if not prevented by immediate corroboration,  
 May possibly end in a mortification.  
 And now by all reasonable and common computation,  
 The man observing his approaching seperation,  
 May probably be under a mighty palpitation,  
 So puts up an earnest and hearty ejaculation  
 For mercy, pardon, and reconciliation,  
 For each sin and transgression, with its respective ag-  
 gravation,  
 To the end he may be easy at the general conflagra-  
 tion,  
 Which of all things below will be the consummation.  
 But as to my friend, a man of great estimation,  
 I'll beg leave, concerning him, to make a short reite-  
 ration,  
 Then of him you'll have a more full delineation,  
 When he gives, as he oftentimes does, exhortation,



Which is commonly had on the first solicitation,  
 He advises in all things to avoid precipitation  
 Tho' on emergent occasions approves festination,  
 He speaks with the gravity of a bishop at consecration,  
 And is extreemly offended with vociferation;  
 When he errs he's still first in his own accusation,  
 Which sure of his fault is a great mitigation;  
 He's for doing his business without lett or molestation,  
 And when at his study dislikes avocation,  
 This I think of his character is no extenuation,  
 He's now much about fifty by's own calculation,  
 If any say he is elder 'tis a false allegation:  
 He has been in the country since the harvest vocation,  
 Of what he's been doing I can make no prognostica-  
 tion,  
 Unless drinking goats-whey for his blood's purifica-  
 tion,  
 Or riding on horse back for his life's prolongation,  
 He came back to my house in the week of rogation  
 As brisk as a king on the day of his coronation,  
 Then after a hearty and short congratulation  
 We had about two or three hours confabulation,  
 When of his travels in his late transmigration  
 He gave me a humourous and full concatenation,  
 Which I heard with great pleasure without defatiga-  
 tion,  
 For he speaks as he thinks, and he hates ostentation,  
 (Tho' a wild rogue did say, nay swore to his affirma-  
 tion,

He believ'd part what he said to be mere equivoca-  
tion:

Now tho' swearing be us'd by men of ev'ry voca-  
tion,

'Tis mostly by those of the leffer valuation,

For of the rules of good manners 'tis a plain violation;

Sometimes to myself he gives hints of emendation

Which all men shou'd practise in this state of proba-  
tion,

He often insists on the mind's cultivation,

Says virtue's a substance has last and duration,

But vice is the shadow all folly and frustration,

And to men of honour and sense abomination;

Thus he talk'd on the road coming from the visita-  
tion,

Of which in my prayer-book I took an annotation,

This I sometime may shew you for manifestation

If the moths and the worms ha'n't wrought it's de-  
solation,

For I never have look'd on it since th' annunciation

But once when I read the marr'age solemnization,

Of which the very thoughts do now give me titila-  
tion:

The sweet prospect tho' distant gives me such exulta-  
-tion,

That I've thrown down my pen lest I spoil my nu-  
-meration,

And I'll go take a walk, for I want relaxation;

But



[But to break off the continuation  
 Of this gentleman's commendation  
 By whose meditation  
 I hope I shall obtain the confirmation  
 Of having your sweet conversation,  
 Which I value above explanation,  
 And for which without disputation  
 I have so great a veneration  
 That it borders on adoration,  
 And now let me give you information  
 I'm enjoying you by anticipation,  
 Or if you'd have a plainer interpretation,  
 I am present with you in imagination,  
 But after all 'twou'd be a vexation,  
 And put me in a terrible consternation,  
 Shou'd I be baulk'd in my expectation;  
 Nay it wou'd be a greater tribulation  
 Than any kind of transportation;  
 Or even corporal amputation;  
 It wou'd put me under a temptation  
 Of seeking alleviation  
 From my grievous Lamentation,  
 Either in an inundation  
 Or perhaps a suffocation,  
 Which of my days wou'd be an abbreviation,  
 And to my self a vilification  
 Whereby I shou'd incur universal condemnation.

Now in hopes of your commiseration,  
 And your compliance with my obsecration,

I am with the strongest asseveration,  
 With the deepest imprecation,  
 If guilty of adulation,  
 With the greatest delectation,  
 Without the least alienation  
 Or colour of mutation,  
 With the most profound humiliation,  
 Begging pardon for interlineation,  
 Yours by protestation.

FRANK HOPEWELL.

*Postscript.*

I beg you'd have this in your own conservation,  
 Lest a printer shou'd see't and cause it's publica-  
 tion,  
 For if once in the news it shou'd get promulgation,  
 Of buyers there wou'd sure be such a complication,  
 That the prentice shall scarcely have time for respira-  
 tion,  
 And so curse the author of such an odd accumulation,  
 Which shou'd they find out 'twou'd give me some  
 perturbation,  
 Because I'd be star'd at by the whole congregation,  
 So prays of my name you wou'd make an obliteration.

F. L. N. I. S.